



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Selectmen's Minutes 04-29-2009

### TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Greeley, Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd, Ms. LaCourt, and Ms. Rowe.  
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rice, and Mrs. Sullivan.

Mr. Greeley opened the meeting announcing that Mrs. Christine Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services, is in charge of the local response plan regarding the Swine Flu. As of this point there are no incidences of the flu in Town. There is a finalized detail plan in place with Mrs. Sharkey as the link/head person in the very well prepared plan. If there is a concerned person who is sick, they should call their doctor as soon as possible. Residents who are not sick and who want information, they should call the Mass Department of Public Health information line 211. Mr. Greeley stated that this information would be repeated at Town Meeting this evening.

#### FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

a. Minutes of Meetings: April 13, 2009

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

b. Request: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fun/Run Walk, 6/13/09

Ellen Digby for Department of Children and Family, Arlington

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

#### LICENSES & PERMITS

2. Request: Change of D/B/A and Menu – 669A Massachusetts Avenue

Kafkas II, Inc., Halit Candemir

Is: Tsunami Japanese Cuisine

Requests: Pasha Turkish Mediterranean Cuisine

Mrs. Mahon moved approval subject to conditions set forth.

SO VOTED (5-0)

#### TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

3. Discussion: Portable Rest Rooms

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

Mr. Connelly explained that the Park & Recreation Commission voted to recommend approval of the pilot program for portable restrooms. This will be a two-month trial period at seven parks paid for by the various user groups, with the Arlington Soccer Club being the majority sponsor.

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

4. Discussion: Homelessness Prevention

Laura Wiener, Director of Housing

Ms. Wiener announced that the Town is receiving new funds from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for prevention of homelessness; these funds are part of the Economic Stimulus Package. Funds are for renters, not owners facing foreclosure and the primary goal of the program is to help people who have become unemployed as a result of the recent recession and now face losing their homes. Ms. Wiener will report back mid-summer on the process and the program.

5. Request: On Street Overnight Parking @ 82 Park Street

Noah Hurley

After some discussion the Selectmen agreed that if they start granting exemptions like this it would become a problem in Town where there is a bylaw of no overnight on street parking.

Mr. Hurd moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

**Correspondence Received**

Paul E. Olsen  
89 Wright Street

Management Analyst Position

Be Rec'd

Richard R. Zingarelli  
DCR

National Flood Insurance Program  
Community Assistance Visit

Be Rec'd

Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly  
Forth Middlesex District

Requested Bills Update

Be Rec'd

Arthur Kneeland  
17 Mill St. Apt. 325

Benches at Heights Main MBTA Bus Stop

Be Rec'd

Mr. Greeley commented on Mr. Olsen's letter that he requested publicly of Mr. Gilligan a statement on why he created a new assistant treasurer/management analyst position. Mr. Greeley would like answered; the job function of assistant treasurer compared to management analyst, what the management analyst job has to do with parking, and why the management analyst job is necessary.

Ms. LaCourt moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (5-0)

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Greeley reported that the Mass. Ave. Meeting held on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, was a well-attended meeting. He asked that it be an agenda item at the May 11, 2009 meeting. The Selectmen agreed unanimously. He feels the plan is close to a vote of acceptance.

Mr. Hurd stated great measures were taken to notify the public, that the meeting was the 6<sup>th</sup> public meeting with over 300 attendees, and that the concerns expressed have come up at meetings over the last 8 months. The working committee has great technical knowledge that includes residents. Mr. Hurd expressed these concerns:

- Traffic flow; lane alignment-the largest concern and wants to see a plan that includes 2 full traffic lanes from Bates Rd. to Cambridge
- Storage
- Linwood St. light not meeting the criteria of volume-wants Mr. Sullivan to research
- Data verification-TAC will working on this; more data would be welcome

- Other non-major concerns that can adjusted during the process
- add two representatives per Selectmen to the current committee to help in communication of plan-he wants to go forward not backwards

Mr. Hurd expressed that he wants to take advantage of the funding to create a safer East Arlington for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists. He doesn't want one group to be pitted against the other and believes the end product is good for the Town.

Ms. Rowe said that there couldn't be major changes after the project is passed into the State. The proposed 25% plan must have correct lane alignment and maybe the plan needs more time to adjust-by end of May. Ms. Rowe wants to go ahead with the plan if the traffic data is OK and the lane alignment is agreed upon-it's an important project.

Mrs. Mahon stated the Town will not lose funding and the Town should slow the process down to adjust plan based on the public's concerns. Mrs. Mahon stated the money will be there when the Town is ready to go and further suggested the following:

- a traffic count should be done in the winter to be accurate
- wants to know where the Town appears on the TIPS list
- an advisory committee of two appointed representatives per Selectmen should be added to the current committee
- redo data
- put revised plan on the web
- keep lights that the residents want
- the project isn't ready to be voted on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
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At this point Mr. Greeley left the meeting to attend Town Meeting and Mrs. Mahon took charge of the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan reported that another traffic count was going to be done and asked that all of the Selectmen forward what information they want or need as soon as possible so it can be addressed before the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Sullivan explained the Town is on the TIPS process for planning but will not be put on TIPS process for construction. The town has been given some money from Rep. Markey, but needs to secure money from the State (Mass. Highway) in order to do the project. If the project does not move forward the Town may loose out on securing this state money. Mr. Sullivan believes a plan can be adjusted and distributed to the Selectmen in time for a vote in May.

Ms. LaCourt wants to see the latest plan with the updates. Ms. LaCourt's concerns are:

- wants a new traffic study
- wants a comprehensive study of roadways
- reviews of traffic loads
- computer modeling
- wants the technical decisions (until the science can be explained it's an uphill battle)
- a good laymen's picture with comparisons

Ms. Rowe suggested Ms. LaCourt should go to the engineer's office and have the modeling and comparisons presented and explained to her. Ms. LaCourt agreed to go and will notify the Selectmen's Office and Manager's Office when she goes.

Ms. Rowe agrees with Mr. Sullivan that plan adjustment and review can happen in May and that an adjusted 25% plan can be put in motion. Block and minor changes can occur after along with broadening the committee. Ms. Rowe also asked the other Selectmen and the Manager to meet with business owners who want to move out of Town due to the project and go over their concerns.

Mrs. Mahon wants to re-discuss this all on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the meeting.

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. to go to Town Meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

A true record: Attest:

Mary Ann Sullivan

**Next meeting of BOS May 11, 2009.**

